

Minutes - **ISC meeting-February 2, 2009** (submitted by Sherry Bohonowicz)

Attended by: Donal Carbaugh (Chair), Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz, Steve Forrest, Michael Coblyn, Linda Laduc, Don Gjertson, Howard Peelle, Irena Bozin, Ray Mahoney, Peter Stern, Rosa Rodriguez -Monguio; and guests Peter Kumble (LARP), Robbie Moll (Computer Science), Chisato Akibayashi (Hokkaido University), and Regine John (IPO).

1) Approval of the December 10, 2008 minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes; it was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

2) Action Item

A motion was made to review the proposed spring-break program, “Applied Field Studies in Guatemala”. Donal Carbaugh informed the Council that COPE has already vetted the proposal. Peter Kumble (LARP) explained that students participating in this program will focus on the research, design, and application of a specific community-service project, the start-up of an industrial composting facility in Guatemala City. Students will learn about the principles of community-service learning and develop a working knowledge on the process of composting. They will also prepare preliminary design plans for the project site in Guatemala City. Students will learn how an industrial composting facility –which takes organic waste and converts it into usable compost - can directly improve the quality of life for the people of Guatemala City.

Students participating in this spring break course will receive 3 credits.

Discussion followed:

Questions were raised about the safety of the participating students. Peter Kumble stated that the program has good security and that the group will be traveling and working in safe areas .The cost of the program (9 days including airfare and room & board) will be around \$1200.00 per student. He expects to have 10 or 12 students participate in this program.

3) Approval:

A motion was made to approve the program; it was seconded and voted unanimously.

4) Action Item

A motion was made to review a proposed agreement between the University of Massachusetts Amherst and EFREI, Engineering Institute, Paris, France.

Robbie Moll from Computer Science explained that this program is designed for Computer Science and Engineering students. Some SOM students might eventually participate as well. UMass students must have junior year status and be proficient in French to participate in the semester/year program. There is also an intensive summer program designed for the summer preceding or after the junior year.

Discussion followed:

Donald Gjertson noted that some changes had been made since the proposal had been brought to COPE. He stated that he was pleased with the revised version.

Several UMass students postponed their graduation last May and attended EFREI over the summer. They had a good experience, and several EFREI students attended UMass and did well. The Computer Science Department has been looking for some time for study abroad programs for its students, and the EFREI program looks promising.

If enough students wish to participate, the Computer Science Department would put together a program to prepare the students for their study abroad program. EFREI also offers some internships with American companies.

5) Approval:

A motion was made to approve the program; it was seconded and voted unanimously.

6) Announcements:

None

7) IPO Director's Report

- The Silk Road Dinner was December 10, 2008 and was sponsored by the Graduate School. It was attended by 20-25 interested faculty members. Dinner participants discussed ideas for topics for the festival, partners from "Silk Road" countries, etc. The festival is tentatively scheduled for AY 2010-2011. Planning is moving forward
- The "Long-term Educational Administration Program" (LEAP) is a U.S. based training program for mid-level Japanese higher-education administrators; it is sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, Sports and Technology. A select group of young administrators spends time at MSU in Bozeman, MT, (to improve their English skills) and then goes to various universities around the country for practica. Chisato Akibayashi from Hokkaido University is working in the UMass System. Frank introduced Chisato who told ISC members that she has already worked at UMass Boston, Lowell, Dartmouth and Worcester campuses and she will be at UMass Amherst until mid March. When she has finished her internship/research she will write a report to her university and the Japanese government.
- On Sunday January 25th, IPO held its 2009 orientation for 25 incoming international students. This orientation continued for the first few weeks of the semester with sessions such as: classroom culture, health information, and Social Security. Currently there are about 1500 international students on campus (including degree and exchange) and 260 international scholars (J visas) and 110 Faculty (H visas).
- UMass numbers for education abroad remain strong for 2008-2009. The total for the semester/year is approximately 832 students. For the January break/spring break and summer programs the number of students is 200+. The numbers appear to holding steady across the country and the cost for studying abroad is still affordable as compared to current university tuition.
- On Wednesday January 28th, the new Rektor of the University of Freiburg, Hans-Jochen Schiewer, Graduate Dean, Helmut Hoping, and Director of the International Office,

Bernd Finger, visited the Amherst campus. The University of Freiburg, the oldest partner of the UM/BW consortium and one of Germany's "elite 9" universities. Due to the January 28 snow storm the campus was closed, and the original itinerary had to be curtailed. John Cunningham (along with Frank Hugus and Regine John from IPO) did come to campus and met with the Freiburg visitors. John Cunningham was able to speak with the visitors about undergraduate programs, research and graduate programs; it was a very productive meeting. Despite the weather several faculty members were able to attend lunch and dinner with the visitors from Freiburg.

- On January 7th. Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz and Pat Vokbus from IPO met with Brian Olsen from Environmental Health and Safety. Brian is the campus's Emergency Preparedness/Plan Manager. There is a campus Emergency Operations Center, with members from each of the Vice Chancellorships. John Cunningham represents the Provost's area. IPO wanted a meeting with Brian because international students and scholars often have different needs in cases of emergencies, especially in the case of campus evacuations, terrorist attacks, etc. Brian would like to use IPO as one of their test departments for on campus emergency preparedness.
- On January 29th, Frank Hugus and Pat Vokbus from IPO met with Nigar Khan from the Graduate School and Guy Lanza from Environmental Science to discuss dual degrees. Guy has possible dual-degree (MS) partners at Burapha University and Mahidol University (Thailand). This month Guy will be visiting these universities plus universities in Vietnam.
- "PIRE and FIPSE" proposals. Several faculty members will submit grant proposals to NSF and to FIPSE. Several of these faculty members came to IPO seeking advice for the International section of the grant proposal.

8) Report by the Chair of the Council: IRAC Meeting of January 21, 2009

Donal Carbaugh reported on the International Relations Advisory Council (IRAC)

Allan Guo, the Executive Director of the China Institute, gave a lengthy powerpoint presentation about the activities of the Institute. (This institute is the body governing the Confucius Institute.)

There was a report at the IRAC meeting on the international activities from each of the campuses. Donal indicated the need for coordination between the campuses and for feeding information to the President's Office. Amherst is clearly the lead campus, and the other campuses look to Frank Hugus and IPO for advice on international issues.

Donal noted that he had addressed IRAC on two international initiatives that he was involved in: the Center for Communication and Sustainable Social Change and the Security Needs Assessment Project.

Donal also said that he would like to bring initiatives from ISC to IRAC. If ISC members have ideas, they should forward them to Donal.

IRAC's purpose is to support international efforts and initiatives on all UMass campuses.

9) Discussion of the Budget

UMass Amherst is looking at a \$46 Million shortfall in FY 2010. All units in academic affairs received a request from the Provost' Office to manage cuts of 3%, 6%, 9% and later for 20%.

-- At this point the meeting had to be adjourned; this topic will be further discussed at the next ISC meeting.

10) Meeting adjourned 5:20 PM